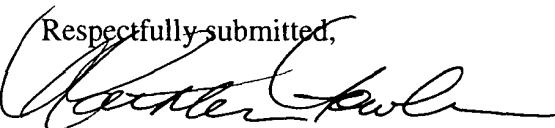


REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 22 to 43 in order to specifically claim various aspects of the elected invention. The new claims add no new matter and are supported by the specification as filed. New claims 22-39 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 34-36. However, in order to provide explicit support, Applicants have also amended the specification to recite information that had heretofore been only incorporated by reference from U.S. Patent No. 5,554,512. Applicants are in the process of preparing a Sequence Listing to support these amendments, and will convey the same with the next response (or sooner if required). New claims 40-43 are supported by the specification as filed at, for example, page 10, lines 15-19 and Example 3 at page 14 *et seq.*

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above amendments prior to examination of the instant application. If the Examiner believes that any issues outstanding could be addressed by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone to undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, to the attention of Examiner F. Pierre VanderVegt at facsimile number (703) 305-3704, on the date indicated below.

Date: May 15, 2000

Signed: 

Kathleen Fowler